letter addressed to Finance Minister has requested for a Special Assistance of Rs. 1000 crores for meeting the State Government's commitment to power sector reform.

Based on the decision taken in the NDC Sub-Committee meeting chaired by Union Finance Minister on 20.3.1999, an Official Committee was set up with Secretary, Planning Commission as its Chairman to monitor and review the fiscal reform programs of the States. Thirteen States including Government of Andhra Pradesh approached the Government of India with their fiscal reform programs and signed agreement for formulation and implementation of a credible and monitorable programme to achieve fiscal stability. The States which signed the MOU on fiscal reforms were given assistance in the form of extended ways and means advance and Additional Market Borrowing. Government of Andhra Pradesh was provided Rs. 500 crores as Additional Market Borrowings and Rs. 200 crores was released as Extended Ways and Means Advance during the year 1999-2000 as medium term assistance linked to their fiscal reform programme.

Clearance of private sector power projects in AP

5601. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether two private sector power projects proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh at Rangareddy and Nalgonda Districts are pending clearance from the centre; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed for early clearance to solve the acute shortage of power problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No proposal for establishment of power projects by private sector in these districts is pending for accord of Techno- Economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(b) Does not arise.

Clearance of Cogentrix Power Project

5602. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cogentrix power project in Karnataka has since been given final clearance;